

Message Text

SECRET

PAGE 01 JIDDA 00550 240518Z
ACTION SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 /026 W
-----114343 240813Z /14
R 240500Z JAN 78
FM AMEMBASSY JIDDA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 837

S E C R E T JIDDA 0550

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PEPR, SA, US, XF
SUBJECT: PEACE NEGOTIATIONS

REF: SECTO 01074

1. I CONVEYED TO FOREIGN MINISTER SAUD SUMMARY OF SECTO 01074 ON JAN. 23. HE SEEMED TO APPRECIATE THE INFORMATION, PARTICULARLY PARAGRAPH 7, WHICH PROVIDED OPTIMISTIC NOTE SORELY NEEDED ON SAUDI SIDE.
2. SAUD SPOKE WITH APPROVAL OF SADAT'S SPEECH EXCEPT THAT PART CASTIGATING ARAB STATES.
3. AN INTERESTING SIDELIGHT CAME OUT OF THIS DISCUSSION. IN OUR MEETING WITH SAUD ON SATURDAY, JANUARY 21, PRIOR TO THE SADAT SEECH, WE HAD EMPHASIZED TO HIM THAT SADAT WOULD FORFEIT MUCH OF HIS NOW FAVORABLE U.S. PUBLIC REACTION IF HE APPEARED TO BE THE ONE BREAKING OFF NEGOTIATIONS WITH ISRAEL (JIDDA 513). SAUD REMARKED ALMOST CASUALLY THAT HE HAD IMMEDIATELY CONVEYED THAT THOUGHT TO SADAT PRIOR TO HIS SPEECH AND HE FELT THAT THE MODERATE TONE REFLECTED SADAT'S CONCERN FOR U.S. OPINION AS DISCUSSED WITH US.

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4. COMMENT: THIS IS FURTHER EVIDENCE OF SAUDI SUPPORT FOR AND COOPERATION WITH SADAT WHICH HAS APPARENTLY INCREASED SINCE PRESIDENT CARTER'S VISIT.
- WEST

SECRET

NNN

Message Attributes

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Decaption Note: 25 YEAR REVIEW
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Disposition Approved on Date:
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